

Natick 360

Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Final Recommendations to Sponsoring Boards from the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee

"Some communities allow the future to happen to them. Successful communities recognize the future is something they can create. These communities take the time to produce a vision of the future they desire and employ a process that helps them achieve their goals."
- National Civic League, 2000

Place Strategic Planning Action Items on your Agenda

The strategic plan contains value and vision statements and more than 200 action items. Many of these action items have been broadly defined and leave many options open for implementation.

Suggested Approach: As you add items to your agendas and record items in your minutes that relate to specific Natick 360 action items, consider placing a text marker such as "<<Natick 360>>" next to each action item. This will flag the item as playing a role in moving toward a strategic goal in the plan.

Review Progress Toward Goals Quarterly

Time passes very quickly and five years will only seem like a long time looking forward. To keep measuring and monitoring progress against the strategic plan, try to schedule a quarterly review.

Suggested Approach: Consider creating a grid of your strategic plan action items from the Strategic Plan Appendix and update each action item with a status code quarterly. Codes may include "A – accomplished", "D – Defer", "P – In Progress", "R – Removed"

Collaborate with Other Boards at least Annually

Many boards have taken on action items to work toward common strategic goals. It will be very beneficial to get together once per year to review progress and identify areas for continued collaboration.

Suggested Approach: Have the Board of Selectmen host a joint meeting annually (perhaps after Spring Town Meeting) of various Boards to review progress against the Strategic Plan and to identify areas for collaboration over the next year. Consider using professional facilitation at these meetings.

Continue to Engage the Public

Public engagement has been an essential component of this planning process. Continued public engagement is one of the strategic goals in the Natick 360 plan.

Suggested Approach: Consider creating periodic public forums to inform and further engage the public in this process.

Make it happen

The Natick 360 Strategic Plan reflects 2 years of excellent work by hundreds of volunteers and contributions of visions, values, and ideas by almost 2,000 people (more than 10% of Natick households) in the process.

The process has yielded a common vision for the future of our community and an integrated plan with 12 strategic goals.

Individual sponsoring boards and committees have identified more than 200 different individual actions that can be taken over the next 5 years to move the community closer to its long-range vision.

This document lists some suggestions for keeping the strategic plan "alive" as a vital and integral part of Natick's governance.

We invite each Board and Committee to adopt these suggestions, or other procedures as they see fit, to leverage Natick's investment in this planning process.